

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 2, 4 and 5 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 2, 4 and 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 7-9 are added, and claims 5 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Support for the features added to claim 1 can be at least found in Figure 1 of the specification.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Drawings are objected to. Fig. 2 is amended to show the connection between transistors 28 and 29, and Figs. 4 and 5 are amended to recite "Prior Art" responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to for inconsistent use of reference numerals. Specific paragraphs in the specification are identified as forming the basis of the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants amended claim 1 responsive to the rejection and claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,672,992 to Nadd in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 5,550,501 to Ito et al. (Ito). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Ito fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1 including, inter alia, a constant current charging and discharging circuit using a first follower circuit and a second follower circuit of claim, as recited in amended claim 1. The constant current charging and discharging circuit of claim 1 is arranged to be along a first path, through which a current flows when a connecting path between the one connecting portion of the capacitor and the ground is conducted by the first switch and a current from the input portion charges the capacitor, and along a second path, through which a current flows when the connecting

path between the one connecting portion of the capacitor and the input portion is conducted by the second switch and the capacitor is discharged. The first and second follower circuits of claim 1 comprise a first transistor and a second transistor respectively interposed at any position on the first path and the second path for controlling an amount of a flowing current flowing through the paths; and a first resistor and a second resistor are connected in series to the first transistor and the second transistor, respectively, on an upstream side or a downstream side in a current flowing direction of the transistor, wherein one end of the second resistor is connected to the first diode and another end of the second resistor is connected to the second transistor.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ito fails to disclose, for example, resistors with all the features recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of Nadd and Ito fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 as well as all the features of claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, which depend from claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nadd in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,791,326 to Vajdic et al. (Vajdic). The rejection of claims 5 and 6 is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 5 and 6. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MMI/ccs

Attachment:

2 Replacement Drawings Sheets (Figs. 2, 4 and 5)

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